



Dkt. 0575/58077/JPW/AJM/MML

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Anna Marie Pyle and Eckhard Jankowsky

Serial No. : 09/492,954

Examiner: E.C. Whisenant

Filed : January 27, 2000

Group Art Unit: 1634

For : ASSAYS FOR EVALUATING THE FUNCTION OF RNA
HELICASES

1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036
March 22, 2004

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND
PETITION FOR A TWO-MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME**

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted in order to address the objections made in the February 27, 2004 Advisory Action issued in connection with the above-identified patent application. On November 21, 2003, applicants filed a Notice of Appeal and a Petition for a three-month extension of time, making an Appeal Brief due January 21, 2004. Applicants hereby request a two-month extension of time for filing an Appeal Brief. The fee for a two-month extension of time is two-hundred and ten dollars for a small entity. Applicants have previously established small entity status.

In lieu of filing an Appeal Brief, applicants are filing a Request for Continued Examination herewith. A check in the amount of \$595.00 is enclosed, which amount includes the RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(e) and the fee for a two-month

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extension of time. Accordingly, this Amendment and the accompanying RCE are being timely filed.